

GENERAL JUSTIFICATION MATERIAL

State of Washington

BIENNIAL BUDGET ESTIMATES**DATE:** September 8, 1998

	CODE	TITLE
AGENCY	235	Labor and Industries
PROGRAM	020	Insurance Services
SUB-PROGRAM	33	SHARP

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION FOR FORM B5-2

Fund 608 and 609

Budget Level PL Rec Sum# PH Line# 217

Title: **Developing Healthy Workplaces****Description**

This proposal is a research and demonstration project. It will identify the safest workplaces in the state and develop ways for other employers to use the safety methods developed by the safe workplaces.

Current Activity

L&I's Safety and Health Assessment for Research and Prevention (SHARP) program uses a multi- disciplinary team of occupational health researchers to identify new and emerging workplace health issues and hazards.

Working jointly with labor and management, SHARP staff develops and tests prevention methods in dynamic, real-world environments by combining occupational health, ergonomics, industrial hygiene and toxicology. This proactive approach identifies and controls workplace hazards and prevents occupational injury and illness. For example, SHARP used research to develop best-practices materials for the following industries: controlling lead exposure to employees in lead-using industries (radiator repair, battery manufacturing, firing ranges, scrap metal), preventing latex allergy in health care and cosmetology workers, preventing carpal-tunnel syndrome in food-processing industries and controlling exposure to metal-working fluids in machine shops.

Proposed Activity

SHARP proposes to add two professional staff (a Public Health Advisor 11 and an Economic Analyst 11). The proposed staff will help create a road map for turning hazardous workplaces into healthy workplaces through research and implementation projects. Augmenting existing staff skills, they will,

- ❖ Identify healthy workplaces in different industrial sectors.
- ❖ Compare these workplaces with hazardous ones in the same industry.
- ❖ Develop and apply models and best practices.
- ❖ Develop training materials.
- ❖ Evaluate the effectiveness of introducing safer technology in high hazard workplaces as a means of reducing hazards, injuries and illnesses.
- ❖ Identify the most hazardous chemicals used in Washington Workplaces and where most hazardous materials are used in different industries.

Fiscal Detail	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Operating Expenditures (B5-2):			
608-1 Accident Fund-State	75,031	62,440	137,471
609-1 Medical Aid Fund-State	75,030	62,441	137,471
TOTAL COST	150,061	124,881	274,942
2. Staffing (B6)	2.0	2.0	2.0
3. Object of Expenditure (B5-2)			
A - Salary and Wages	85,428	85,428	170,856
B - Employee Benefits	23,066	23,066	46,132
E - Goods and Services	15,587	15,587	31,174
G - Travel and Moving Expense	800	800	1,600
J - Capital Outlays	25,180	0	25,180
TOTAL	150,061	124,881	274,942

Strategies to which this change is tied

L&I has committed to increase the number of serious workplace hazards identified and abated by at least 10% over the next three years, and by at least 15% over the next five years. We will lower the injury and illness rate in 3 - 5 selected high-priority industries, including those designated by the WISHA Advisory Committee. Hazard identification and control also supports the agency's workers' compensation goals to reduce time-loss duration and long-term disability claims. Our regulatory improvement strategies emphasize providing education and technical assistance, developing specific partnerships that target specific risks, using best practices, and acting on outcome evaluations. SHARP's Developing Healthy Workplaces" proposal enhances each of the agency's key priorities and major strategies.

Performance Measure Detail	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>
Outcome Measures: (Indicate Code used on B11)		
1. Reduce injuries and illnesses in participating "unhealthy" workplaces.	Determine baseline	5% reduction
Output Measures: (Indicate Code used on B11)		
1. Complete study of economic impacts of selected upper-extremity illness/injury in WA state	80% complete	100% complete
2. Identify most hazardous chemicals and their distribution in WA state.	2 chemicals	3 chemicals

Narrative Justification

"Developing Healthy Workplaces" adds a significant new emphasis to hazard identification and control by modeling best practices as an impetus to employers and employees in creating more healthy workplaces. In most industrial sectors, dramatic changes are occurring rapidly in areas such as: workplace technology, the way work is organized, the physical and financial environments and the relationship between a worker and a given workplace. These changes provide opportunities for innovation and growth for the company and its employees. They also provide challenges for shaping more healthy work environments. SHARP's multi-disciplinary team is in a unique position to take on these challenges. Using economic and demographic trends, tracking industry-specific safety technologies, and analyzing organizational changes, the SHARP team can determine the characteristics and practices that make certain workplaces "healthy." The team can then develop models and best-practices materials to assist less healthy workplaces in making needed improvements.

Calculations

1. EXPENSES

<u>Number of Positions</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
1	Public Health Advisor 11	July 1, 1999	Tumwater
1	Economic Analyst 11	July 1, 1999	Tumwater

STARTUP EQUIPMENT

Refer to Startup Equipment Detail Sheet

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>FY2001</u>
Startup Equipment	2	25,180	